Ladakh region has been completed well ahead of schedule.

(c) The issue of Pak unprovoked firing across the border in J&K is taken up with Pak authorities from time to time. It was also taken up during the Foreign Secretary level talks held in Islamabad in October 1998.

Shortage of spare parts

1115. SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA NAHATA:
SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA':

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a shortage of spare parts for Russian Fighter Planes with Indian Air Force; and

(b) if so, the urgent steps proposed to arrange adequate spares to maintain operational preparedness of IAF?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The IAF is facing some shortage of spares parts for russian Fighter Planes.

(b) The issue is regularly pursued with the russians, and as a result the position has considerably improved. The following steps have been taken to ensure availability of adequate spares to maintain operational preparedness of the IAF:

(i) Alternative resources in CIS/ East European countries have been identified, and the process continues successfully.

(ii) The factories manufacturing the spares are being directly approached for the supplies.

(iii) All out efforts are being made to indigenise spare parts of Russian Fighter Planes. As a result over 27,600 spares have since been indigenised.

Undertaking of comprehensive strategic review

1116. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:
SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a comprehensive strategic review has been undertaken by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the composition of the review panel; and

(c) whether there is any need for recasting the parameters of the review in the light of the extremely severe and hostile stance of the U.S. Government towards India, as reflected in the latest decision of black-listing some 200 Indian organisations both in the private and the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Talks between Manipur CM and US Ambassador

1117. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the recent talks between the Manipur Chief Minister and the U.S. Ambassador during his tour to the North-Eastern region complaining about the Centre's apathy to the socio-economic development of the State;

(b) whether Government have obtained the factual position from the Manipur Government; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government with regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Certain reports to this effect have appeared in the press.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.